



MARVEL
33

WOLVERINE



MARVEL



WWW.MARVEL.COM © 2009 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved.

WAY

• TEIXEIRA

• SALTARES

The New Avengers and the Astonishing X-Men met to discuss the fate of Wanda Maximoff, the Scarlet Witch--the daughter of the powerful mutant terrorist Magneto. After losing control of her reality-altering powers and suffering a total nervous breakdown, Wanda unleashed chaos upon the Avengers, killing and injuring many of their number. Magneto intervened and took his daughter to the devastated island-nation of Genosha, where Charles Xavier--Professor X, the founder of the X-Men--was to help her recover. Xavier failed, and now it is up to Wanda's friends and teammates to decide whether she will live or die. But Magneto, Wanda, and her brother Pietro disappear...

Then the world burns to white. Reality as we knew it is gone...

To be replaced by a society in which humans are the oppressed minority and mutants run the culture, ruling over all existing countries, religions, and politics. A kingdom united under the House of M.

HOUSE OF M

Agent James Howlett, otherwise known as the mutant Wolverine, is one of the elite S.H.I.E.L.D. Red Guard's most celebrated operatives. Along with his partner Raven Darkholme (a.k.a. Mystique), he carries out the most dangerous missions for Magneto's ruling government without fail.

But Wolverine hasn't been himself lately. His behavior has been reckless and erratic, and others fear he may have cracked...

Writer
Daniel Way

Breakdowns
Javier Saltares

Finishes
Mark Texeira

Colors
Paul Mounts

Letters
VC's Joe Caramagna

Cover Artist
Joe Quesada

Production
James Taveras

Assistant Editor
Cory Sedlmeier

Editor
Jennifer Lee

Executive Editor
Axel Alonso

Editor in Chief
Joe Quesada

Publisher
Dan Buckley



⊗ S.H.I.E.L.D. MOBILE HEADQUARTERS,
HIGH ABOVE MANHATTAN.

THIS
IS IT?

THERE'S NO
AUDIO?

TOO MUCH
WIND-NOISE ON
THE DECK, SIR.

"SO WE HAVE
NO IDEA WHAT
WAS SAID."

"THAT'S CORRECT,
COLONAL SHAW. OUR
LIP-READERS ARE
WORKING ON IT, BUT..."

"SIR, I DON'T MEAN
TO CAST ASPERSIONS
ON A FELLOW AGENT,
BUT..."

"...IT'S MYSTIQUE.
IF SHE WANTED TO FOOL
A LIP-READER, SHE COULD...
EASILY. WITH HER MUTATION,
IT WOULD BE--"



"I'M WELL AWARE
OF AGENT MYSTIQUE'S
ABILITIES, AGENT
COLERIDGE."

"OF COURSE,
SIR."

"NOW, WHAT, IF ANYTHING,
DID THE MANY WITNESSES TO
THIS MORNING'S ENTERTAINMENT
OVERHEAR?"

"UM...AGAIN, IT'S VERY
WINDY OUT THERE, BUT...
ALMOST EVERYONE AGREED
THAT THEY HEARD AGENT
MYSTIQUE SCREAM, 'NO.'"

"VERY
LOUDLY."

"HMM..."





"YES, THAT WOULD
SEEM APPROPRIATE..."

CHASING GHOSTS

PART ONE OF THREE

Ⓢ FOUR HOURS LATER: THE OFFICE OF SEBASTIAN SHAW, DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D.

COLONEL SHAW? YOU NEEDED TO SEE ME...?

YES, PLEASE... COME IN.

I WANT TO TALK ABOUT LOGAN.

YOU ALREADY HAVE MY REPORT, SIR--

MY DEAR, I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT HIS SWAN DIVE FROM THE DECK OF THE CARRIER THIS MORNING...

...I'M TALKING ABOUT MEXICO.

TWO WEEKS AGO.

YOU HAVE MY REPORT ON THAT, AS WELL, SIR--

YES, YES, I DO.

YOURS AND LOGAN'S, ACTUALLY--BOTH OF WHICH ARE ALMOST COMPLETELY IDENTICAL. BUT YOU SEE, WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS WHAT *ISN'T* IN THESE REPORTS.

AND SINCE YOU AND LOGAN ARE SO... CLOSE... I BELIEVE YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ME WITH A UNIQUE INSIGHT AS TO WHY THE CAPTAIN OF MY RED ARMY HAS LITERALLY JUMPED SHIP.

SO...
...LET'S START FROM THE BEGINNING, SHALL WE?

☉ TWO WEEKS AGO. SOUTHEASTERN MEXICO. HIGH IN THE SIERRA MADRES.

"WE WERE DEPLOYED TO MEXICO TO TRACK DOWN AND RETRIEVE PAULA D'ONOFRIO, ASSISTANT PRESS SECRETARY TO THE HOUSE OF MAGNUS.

"SHE HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED WHILE ON VACATION WITH HER FAMILY BY A GROUP OF HUMAN GUERRILLA FIGHTERS."

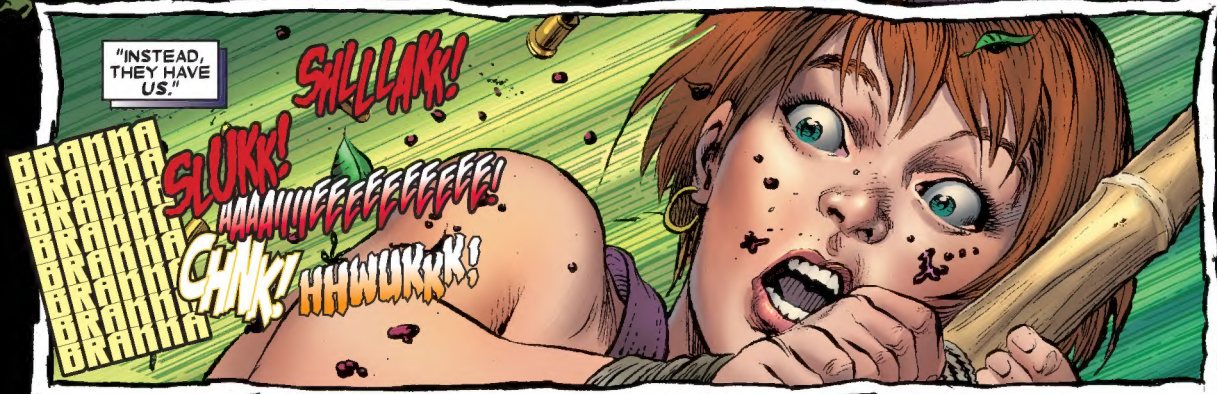
"DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THESE GUERRILLAS WERE WORKING WITH THE HUMAN RESISTANCE?"

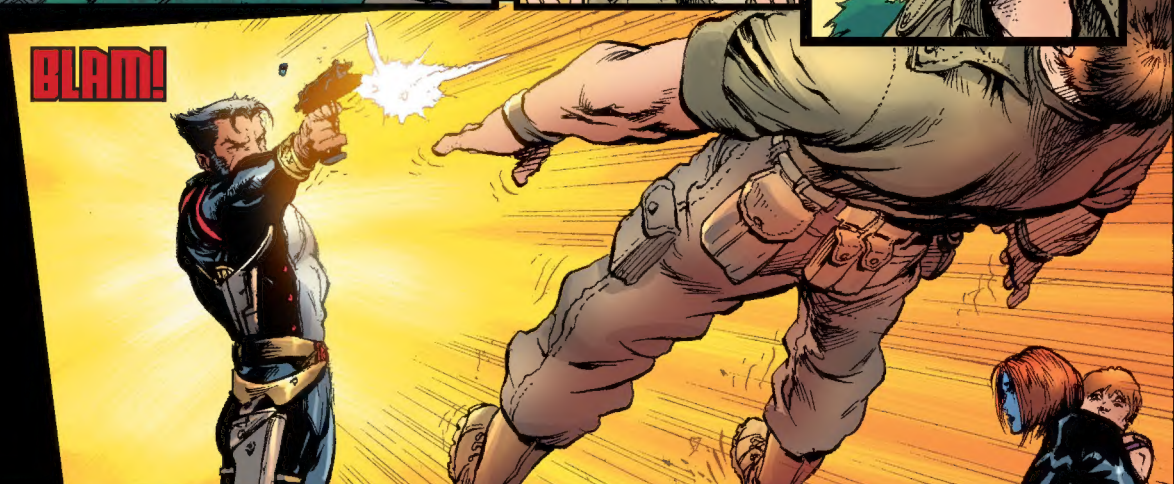
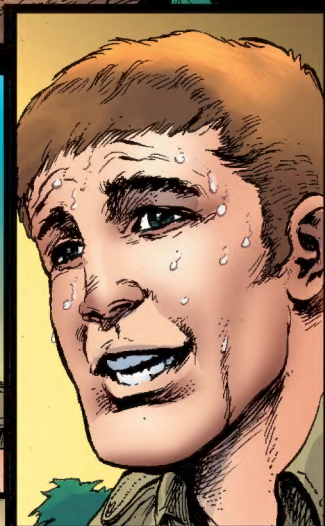
"NO, THIS WASN'T AN ATTEMPT TO ADVANCE ANY 'CAUSE'...THE ONLY THING THEY WANTED WAS TO NEGOTIATE A NICE, FAT RANSOM.

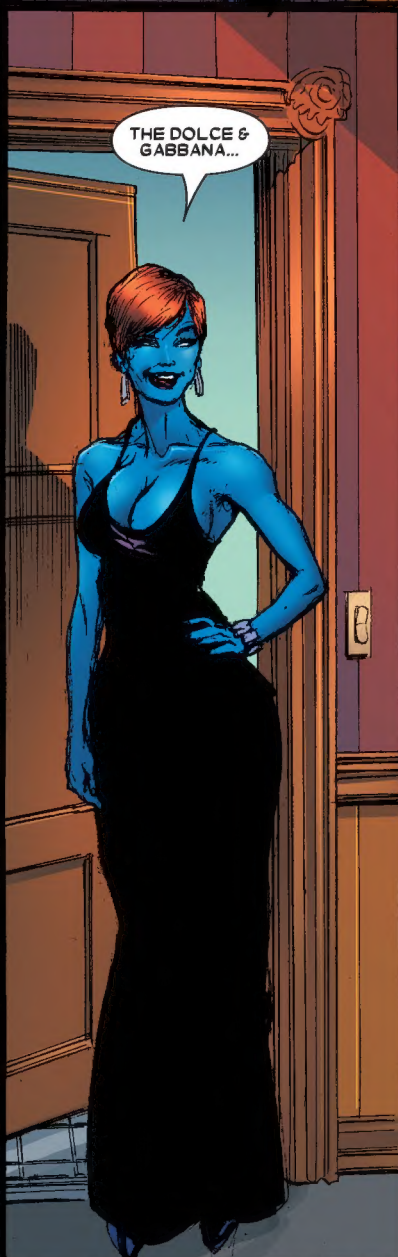
"UNFORTUNATELY FOR THEM, THE HOUSE OF M DOESN'T HAVE A NEGOTIATION POLICY."



I WOULDN'T DO THAT IF I WERE YOU...











PERMISSION
TO SPEAK
FRANKLY,
SIR?

BY
ALL MEANS,
DEAR.

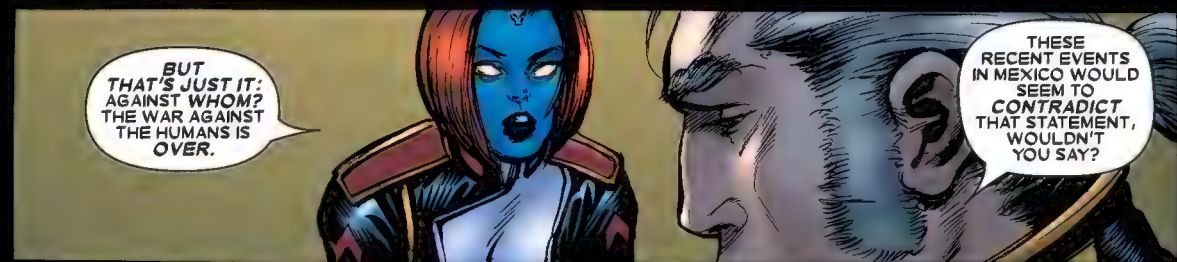


THERE'S...
A RAGE
INSIDE
LOGAN.

YOU KNOW
THIS... YOU'VE
EXPLOITED IT,
YOURSELF, ON
COUNTLESS
OCCASIONS.

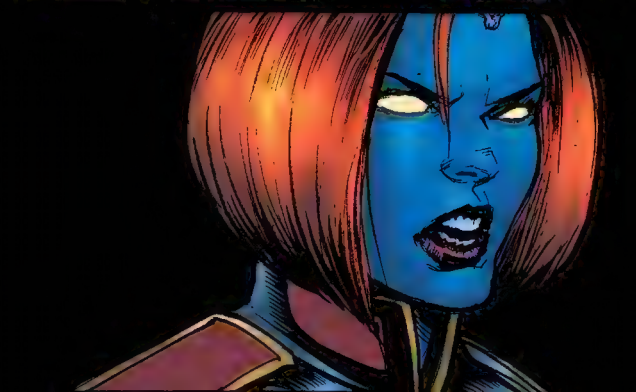
THAT'S
ABSOLUTELY
CORRECT.

AND,
FOR THE SAKE
OF MUTANTKIND,
I MOST ASSUREDLY
WOULD DO IT
AGAIN.



BUT
THAT'S JUST IT:
AGAINST WHOM?
THE WAR AGAINST
THE HUMANS IS
OVER.

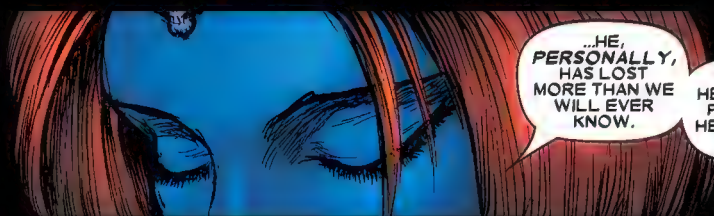
THESE
RECENT EVENTS
IN MEXICO WOULD
SEEM TO
CONTRADICT
THAT STATEMENT,
WOULDN'T
YOU SAY?





LOGAN HAS SPENT HIS ENTIRE LIFE--SEVERAL LIFETIMES, IN FACT--FIGHTING A WAR.

AND EVEN THOUGH WE, AS A RACE, HAVE WON THAT WAR...



...HE, PERSONALLY, HAS LOST MORE THAN WE WILL EVER KNOW.

SO, YES, HE DOES TAKE PILLS. THEY HELP TO DULL THE PAIN.

AND YES, HE DOES DRINK. SOMETIMES IT EVEN MAKES HIM SMILE.



BUT NEITHER OF THESE THINGS HAS EVER COMPROMISED LOGAN'S ABILITIES AS AN AGENT OR A LEADER.



THEN HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN MEXICO?



WE WERE ALL CAUGHT OFF-GUARD THAT NIGHT, SIR.

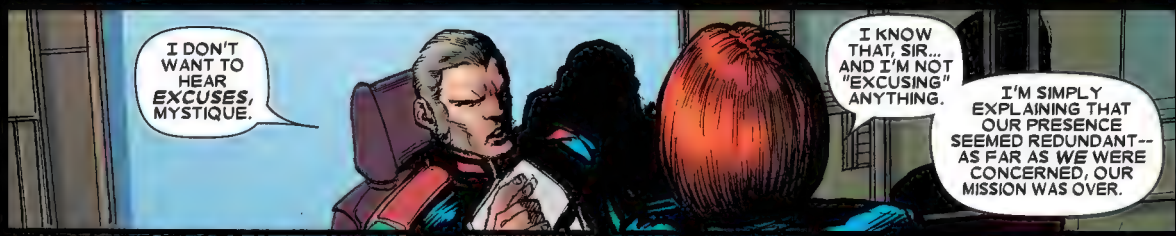


"THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT WAS THROWING A DINNER PARTY, HOSTED BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, TO CELEBRATE THE ARRIVAL OF THEIR NEW SENTINEL."

"A GIFT FROM THE HOUSE OF MAGNUS."

"LOTS OF LOW-LEVEL DIPLOMATS... THIS WAS ALL JUST A GLORIFIED PHOTO-OP, NOT REALLY A STATE DINNER."

"SINCE LOGAN AND I WERE ALREADY IN MEXICO, WE GOT FOLDED INTO THE SECURITY DETAIL. THE MARINES ALREADY HAD THE PLACE COVERED-- WE WERE THERE MORE AS AMBASSADORS OF S.H.I.E.L.D. THAN AS AGENTS."



I DON'T WANT TO HEAR EXCUSES, MYSTIQUE.

I KNOW THAT, SIR... AND I'M NOT "EXCUSING" ANYTHING.

I'M SIMPLY EXPLAINING THAT OUR PRESENCE SEEMED REDUNDANT-- AS FAR AS WE WERE CONCERNED, OUR MISSION WAS OVER.



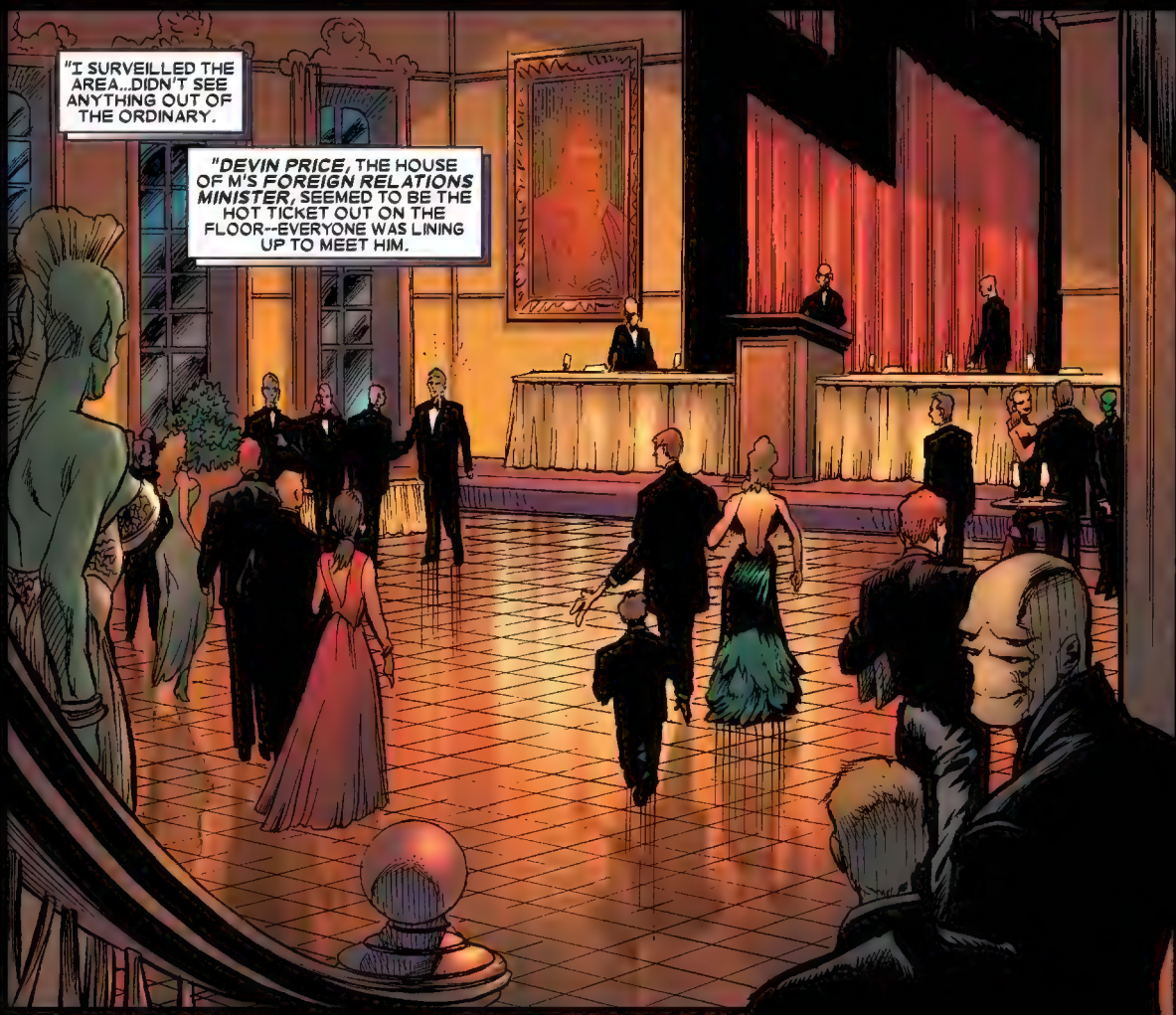
"IN RETROSPECT, WE SHOULD HAVE TAKEN THE ASSIGNMENT MUCH MORE SERIOUSLY."

THIS IS A DAMN INSULT.

WHERE'S THE BAR?

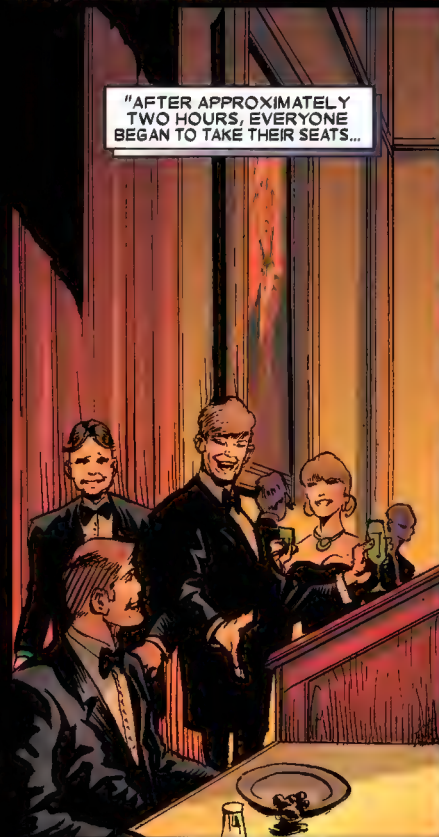
OVER BY THE FOUNTAIN.

I'M GOING TO GO MINGLE.



"I SURVEILLED THE AREA...DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY."

"DEVIN PRICE, THE HOUSE OF M'S FOREIGN RELATIONS MINISTER, SEEMED TO BE THE HOT TICKET OUT ON THE FLOOR--EVERYONE WAS LINING UP TO MEET HIM."



"AFTER APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS, EVERYONE BEGAN TO TAKE THEIR SEATS..."



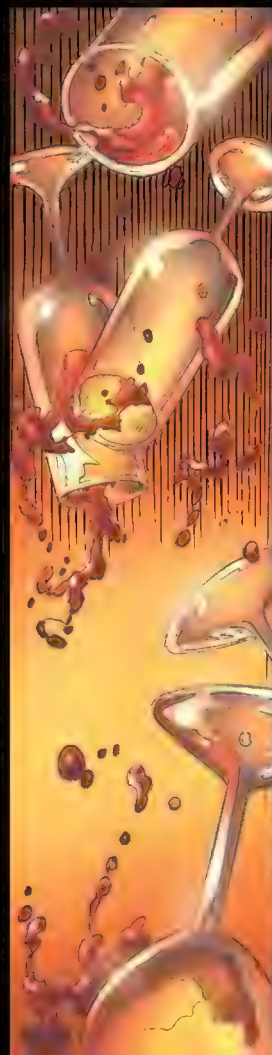
"...AND A TOAST WAS MADE."

"WHERE WAS LOGAN DURING THIS PERIOD?"



"LOGAN?"

"HE...HAD STATIONED HIMSELF NEAR THE FOUNTAIN."

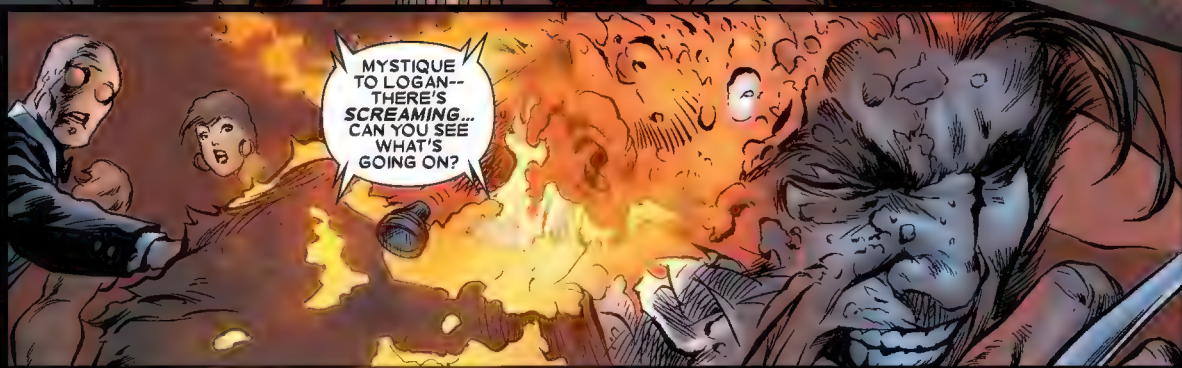


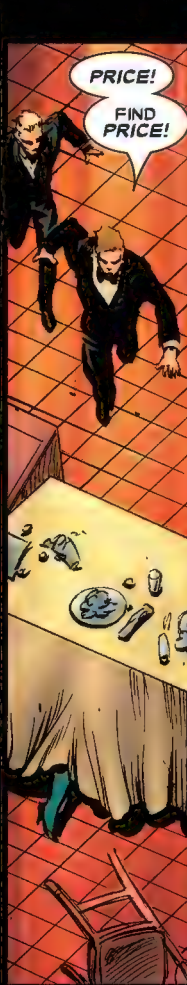


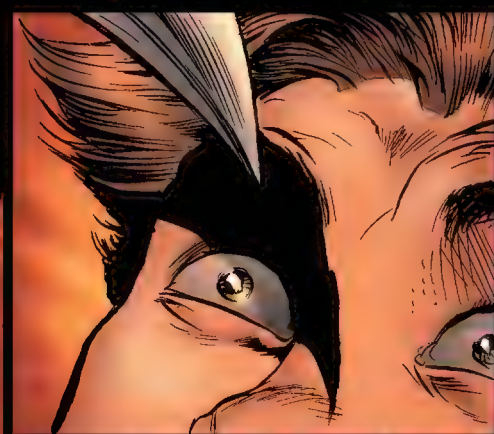
YYYYAAAAAAHHHHHHH--!

"WEAPONIZED
CORROSIVE ACID."

"THEY'D DONE THEIR
HOMEWORK."









"THE MARINES
THEN ARRIVED
IN FORCE--

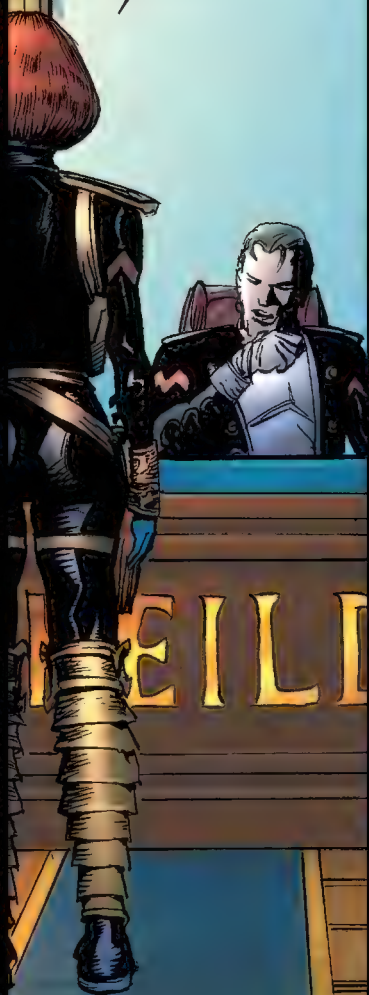


"--AND
PROCEEDED
TO DO WHAT
MARINES DO."

THE ENTIRE THING
HAPPENED IN LESS THAN
THIRTY MINUTES. LUCKILY,
ONLY NINE DIGNITARIES
WERE INJURED AND ONLY
TEN WERE KILLED.

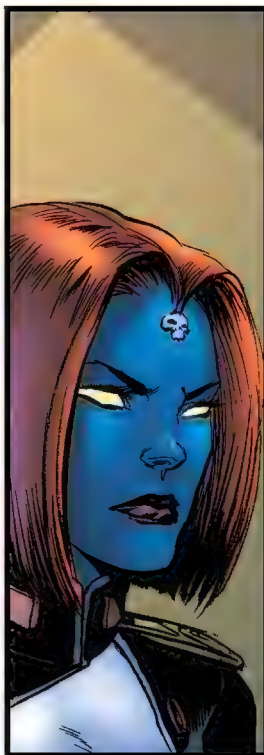
PRICE ESCAPED
WITHOUT SO MUCH
AS A SCRATCH.

BUT THEN
AGAIN, PRICE
WASN'T THE
INTENDED
TARGET.

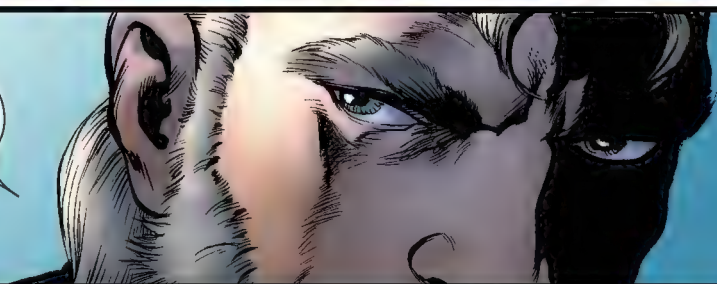


"IT WAS THE
SENTINEL."

"AND THEY
GOT IT."

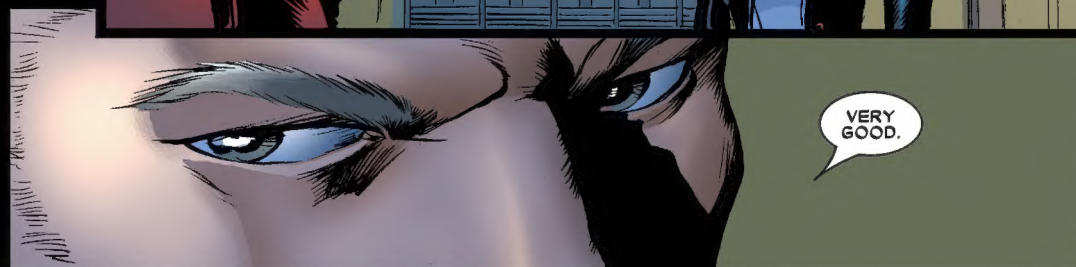


I'D EVEN
GO SO FAR AS TO
SAY THAT S.H.I.E.L.D.
COULDN'T HAVE
PLANNED IT ANY
BETTER.





NOT OFTEN.





IT
WAS NICK
FURY.





The Hand